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COUNTRY: Germany/Russian Zone
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1. Shortly before the end of the war, it was decided to drop all work on the rocket which had been developed by Dr. Trommsdorff during the third phase of the war. The reason behind this decision was that definite shortcomings had been detected and that the Trommsdorff construction had been supplanted by more recent constructions, developed by Henschel. For some unknown reason, it was later on decided to continue the development of this rocket, though no great enthusiasm was shown. Following the German collapse, the Russians were undecided whether or not they should continue the project, but after Dr. Trommsdorff had accepted a position with the Russians, he was asked to continue to work on his rocket and to follow the same principles as heretofore. It became, however, obvious in the course of time that the work could not lead to success, and Dr. Trommsdorff was asked to apply basic changes. This decision was taken around November, 1946; Dr. Trommsdorff left soon afterwards for Russia.

2. The Trommsdorff rocket was tested about summer, 1944, in the wind-tunnel, set up in the test-station of the German Air Forces in Peenemünde. The results were very unsatisfactory; the main shortcomings had to do with faulty steering. The wind-tunnel which served for these tests was at that time the only existing wind-tunnel of its kind; with it, a speed up to 2,000 kilometers an hour could be measured. This wind-tunnel was put away before the arrival of the Russian Army, and it is certain that it never fell into Russian hands.

3. The Trommsdorff rocket was allegedly launched once at Peenemünde by Professor KLOSE, in the late summer of 1944, at a time when Dr. Trommsdorff was serving at the front. The launching required a special fuel which could not be used for assembly line production. It is very well possible that Professor Klose was the person who tested the rocket in the wind tunnel. Dr. Trommsdorff alleges that the rocket was launched in his presence; however, information given by colleagues of his does not bear out the truth of this statement. It is generally believed that Dr. Trommsdorff made this statement, in order to get greater backing from the Russians. Informant was unable to give detailed technical information about the test launching, although he asserts that complete Schlieren photographs have been found.

4. During the same period (summer, 1944), the project "Schmetterling" underwent tests in Peenemünde (sub-project named "Rheintochter"). The results, obtained with "Schmetterling", showed no unfavorably the shortcomings of the

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Trommsdorf rocket; its constructor, Dr. Trommsdorf, fell in disgrace with the KLM (highest authority); he was left to continue to work practically on his construction up to the end of the war; however, he received very little encouragement.

5. By the time Trommsdorf left for Russia, the project, with modifications, had been entirely developed on paper. Up to then, no tests whatsoever had been made. According to calculations, the cruising radius of the rocket is 150 kilometers. This modified version was a compromise between Trommsdorf's somewhat fantastic conception (he either tried to ignore critical problems or tackled them reluctantly) and the Russian wishes. Judging from the large number of required fittings, it seems unlikely that the rocket could be manufactured in large numbers.

6. It is most unlikely that Trommsdorf should be working on this project in Russia; this does, however, not mean that he might not be working on V weapons. Dr. Trommsdorf and other specialists in the field of rocket weapons work in a Russian Institute in Moscow, but live outside of Moscow. At the time Dr. Trommsdorf left for Russia, seven close co-workers went along.

7. It is not known if this project is at present continuing in Germany. It is, however, known that the construction work for remote control for similar projects (Schmetterling) is being conducted in Germany. The actual rockets are apparently being made in Russia.

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OES, Scientific Branch

Transmission of Report

1. There is forwarded herewith for your information and retention a copy of Report TI - 6451 which deals with the development of the Trommsdorf rocket.

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